



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Robert D. Vance, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ronda Sloan
502-564-6098
502-330-1804 (cell)

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY *Time to make a decision ends Dec. 7*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2011) – Medicare members had an early start on open enrollment this year but should be aware that the clock is ticking. The seven-week enrollment period began Oct. 15 and ends on Dec. 7. During this period, seniors and those with certain disabilities may make changes to their health and prescription drug coverage.

“We want to be sure that Kentucky Medicare recipients make note of the change in open enrollment dates, particularly the Dec. 7 deadline,” said Insurance Commissioner Sharon P. Clark. “We hope seniors and others on Medicare will take the time to review all the options to find a plan that works best for them.”

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has launched a new plan finder with quality ratings to assist recipients in selecting a plan. The tool, which includes details on traditional, Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans, is available at www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan. Recipients can put in basic information and view choices, costs and plan rating data.

Clark added that Medicare recipients will gain additional benefits in 2012 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Those include lower prescription drug costs through a 50 percent discount on covered brand name drugs while in the coverage gap, also known as the “doughnut hole,” as well as wellness checkups and access to preventive care with no copayment.

“We also want to remind members to protect their Medicare number and to never give personal information to an unsolicited caller or visitor who is selling Medicare-related products,” Clark said.

Additional information is available at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-Medicare.

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